SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
NOV.
No. 196
12¢

# BATMAN

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BATMAN--
WHERE ARE YOU?
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?
ANSWER
ME!

# HEY GUYS!

## WE'RE GETTING READY TO ENTER THE FORD-NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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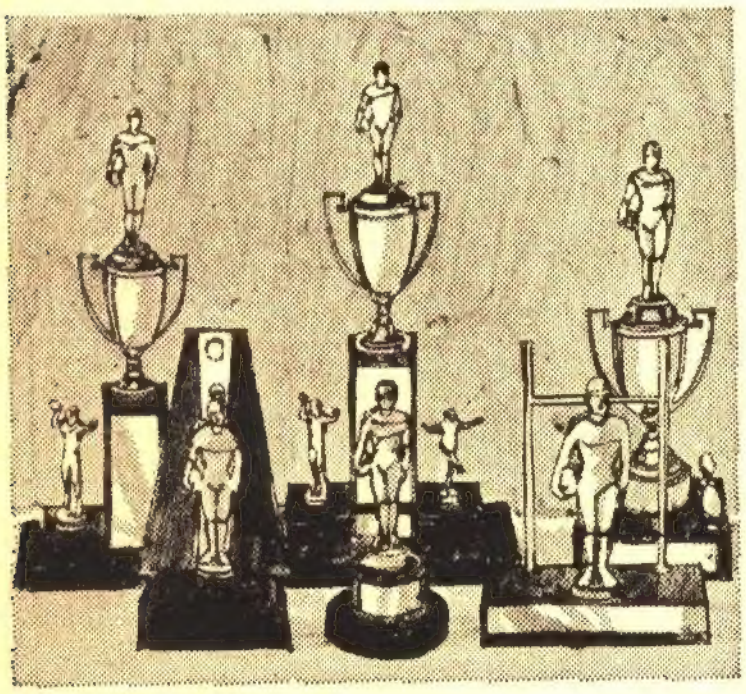

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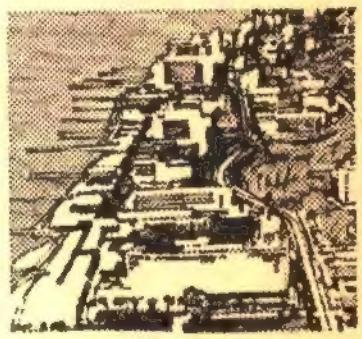

During half-time of the big NFL Play-Off Game you'll compete for the National Championship right there in the Orange Bowl! Boy, that's something!

## HERE'S ALL YOU DO TO ENTER.

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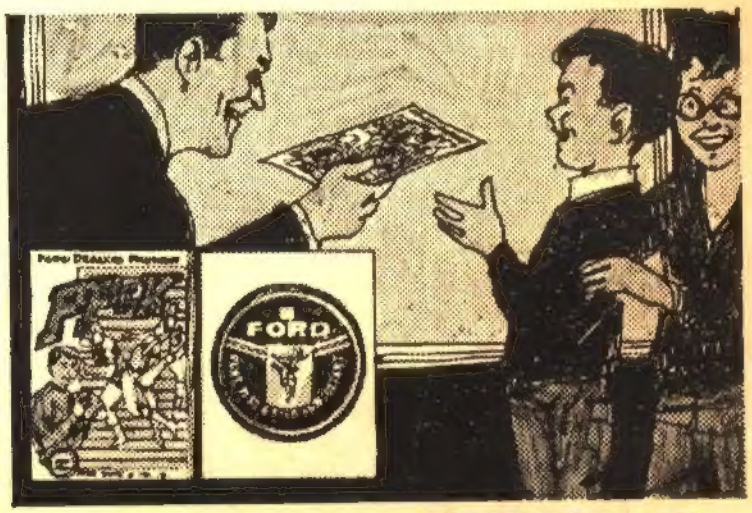
## LOOK WHAT YOU GET FOR ENTERING




Just for signing up you get a swell PP&K pin to wear . . . AND a Punt, Pass & Kick TIPS BOOK by the big NFL stars, filled with hints to help you win. Free!

# HURRY! REGISTRATION CLOSES OCTOBER 6TH!

## TAKE MOM OR DAD TO YOUR PARTICIPATING FORD DEALER TODAY!

Ford FORD

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# BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

## The PSYCHIC SUPER-SLEUTH!

WHEN THERE ARE NO CLUES TO A JEWEL ROBBERY--WHEN EVEN BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE STUMPED HOW TO PROCEED--THERE DRAMATICALLY APPEARS AN INVESTIGATOR WHO SOLVES CRIMES BY MEANS OF EXTRA-SENSORY POWERS! HE CAN TOUCH A DISCARDED JEWEL--AND SENSE WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE ROBBERY--HOW THEY COMMITTED IT--AND WHERE THEY ARE HIDING OUT! FAR-FETCHED? SUCH FANTASTIC FEATS ARE ON POLICE RECORDS--BUT NONE CAN COMPARE WITH THOSE OF PETRU DUBROV--

BOB KANE

HERE'S THE CROOKS' LOOT--EXACTLY WHERE MY PSYCHIC CLUES TOLD ME IT'D BE!

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LATE ONE EVENING AS THE BATMOBILE HEADS BACK FOR THE BATCAVE...

ALL QUIET ON THE GOTHAM CITY CRIME-FRONT, BATMAN--

MAYBE NOT, ROBIN-- THERE GOES THE HOT-LINE SIGNAL!

COMMISSIONER GORDON HERE! THERE'S BEEN A ROBBERY AT THE APEX GEM BAZAAR! THERE ISN'T A SINGLE CLUE TO GO ON! NEVERTHELESS, I EXPECT THE CRIME TO BE SOLVED MOMENTARILY!

HUH? WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT? HOW CAN ANYBODY SOLVE A CRIME WHERE THERE ISN'T ANY CLUE?

LET'S GO THERE AND SEE FOR OURSELVES!

WHEN THE BAT-MOBILE BRAKES BEFORE THE JEWELRY STORE...

THERE IS NO NEED FOR CLUES THE WAY I WORK, ROBIN!

BATMAN, ROBIN--LET ME INTRODUCE PSYCHIC SLEUTH PETRU DUBROV, WHO IS VISITING US FROM HIS NATIVE HUNGARY!

FILL ME IN, BATMAN... WHAT'S A "PSYCHIC SLEUTH"?

AN INVESTIGATOR WHO USES EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION--ESP--TO SOLVE PUZZLING CRIMES! THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THESE GIFTED MEN IN THE WORLD, ROBIN-- LIKE WARNER THOLEN AND GERARD CROISET!

BUT PETRU DOBROV IS PERHAPS THE MOST FAMOUS!

INSIDE THE JEWEL SALON...

THE THIEVES CHOSE ONLY THE FINEST GEMS IN THE STORE-- BUT IN MAKING THEIR SELECTION, THEY TOUCHED-- AND DISCARDED--THE LESS VALUABLE ONES--LIKE THESE!

EACH SUCH JEWEL HAS A PERSONAL AURA OF THE MAN WHO TOUCHED IT--ENABLING ME TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THEM...

IF I STILL WERE ON A "HOLY" KICK-- I'D SAY "HOLY SHERLOCK HOLMES"!

I SENSE BY THEIR PSYCHIC AURAS THERE WERE THREE MEN--CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, I SHOULD SAY--WHO GAINED ENTRANCE BY A SPECIALLY MADE KEY...

HE'S NOT PSYCHIC-- HE'S JUST PLAIN, SICK!

COMMISSIONER, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME *DUBROV* WAS IN TOWN?

I WANTED TO SAVE IT AS A SURPRISE!

BY HOLDING ONTO THESE JEWELS, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEAD YOU TO THEIR HIDE-OUT!

WHAT'S THIS GUY TRYING TO DO--PUT *BATMAN* AND ME OUT OF BUSINESS?

I DO NOT CLAIM TO BE PERFECT, UNDERSTAND! I AM ABLE TO SOLVE ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THESE CASES--DEPENDING ON HOW *STRONG* THE PSYCHIC EMANATIONS ARE...

*PETRU* AND I WILL TRAVEL AHEAD IN MY CAR, *BATMAN*--WHILE YOU TRAIL US IN THE *BATMOBILE*!

;*HMPFF*! PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE TO THIS GUY--I DON'T LIKE IT!

MOREOVER, IT'S IN THE RECORD THAT AN AMERICAN LADY IN NEW JERSEY--A *FLORENCE STERNFELS*--ENABLED THE *BALTIMORE* POLICE TO LOCATE THE BODY OF A DEAD GIRL--EVEN DRAWING A PICTURE OF THE PLACE WHERE THE BODY WOULD BE FOUND--THOUGH SHE HAD *NEVER* BEEN IN *BALTIMORE*!

*BATMAN*, DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT PSYCHIC JAZZ?

WELL, *ROBIN*--THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN TELL COLOR WITH THEIR FINGERTIPS. IT'S CALLED *DERMO-OPTICAL PERCEPTION*! SO YOU SEE, MANKIND HAS HIDDEN SENSES WE ARE NOW ONLY BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND...

MOREOVER, SHE HELPED LOCATE FOUR OUT OF FIVE MEN INVOLVED IN A *BRINKS ARMORED CAR* HOLDUP...

POLICE DEPARTMENTS ARE TURNING MORE AND MORE TO THESE STRANGELY GIFTED PEOPLE FOR HELP IN SOLVING BAFFLING CRIME CASES!

GOLLY, I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL OUT OF DATE!

*ROBIN*, I WELCOME ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET IN OUR PERPETUAL FIGHT AGAINST CRIME! IF *PETRU DOBROV* CAN HELP US CAPTURE CROOKS, I'M ALL FOR HIM!

SUDDENLY...

STOP! THAT HOUSE THERE-- YES! I CAN FEEL THE PSYCHIC EMANATIONS COMING FROM IT!

YOU WILL FIND THE JEWEL THIEVES INSIDE!

ROBIN, YOU AND I WILL CHECK OUT THE HOUSE WITH DUBROV--WHILE THE POLICE SURROUND THE HOUSE TO PREVENT A POSSIBLE GETAWAY!

WELL, AT LEAST NOW I'M GOING TO GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION!

A RING OF THE DOORBELL AND...

BATMAN!

JOEY TOLLIVER, THE EX-JEWEL THIEF! BUT YOU'VE BEEN GOING STRAIGHT SINCE YOU SERVED YOUR TIME!

I SURE HAVE! YOU GOT ME A JOB WITH THE NOSTRAND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY--TOGETHER WITH MY BUDDIES HERE, HANK AND KENNY!

WHEN THEY ARE INVITED INTO THE HOUSE...

NEVERTHELESS, BATMAN--THESE ARE THE THREE MEN WHO ROBBED THE APEX GEM BAZAAR EARLIER THIS NIGHT!

ROBBED THE--HEY! WHAT'S THIS GUY TALKIN' ABOUT?

WE'VE BEEN PLAYING CARDS ALL NIGHT LONG! WE HAVEN'T BEEN OUT OF THE HOUSE!

IF THEY'RE INNOCENT THEY WON'T MIND IF I SEARCH FOR THE STOLEN JEWELS

GO AHEAD! WE GOT NOTHIN' TO HIDE!

PETRU DOBROV HESITATES ONLY A MOMENT--THEN WALKS STRAIGHT TO A TOOL CHEST, WHERE...

THE PSYCHIC AURA IS STRONGEST HERE AND--AH! HERE'S THE LOOT--

HUH? HOW'D THEY GET IN THERE?

IT'S A FRAME! WE'RE BEING USED AS PATSIES FOR THE REAL CROOKS!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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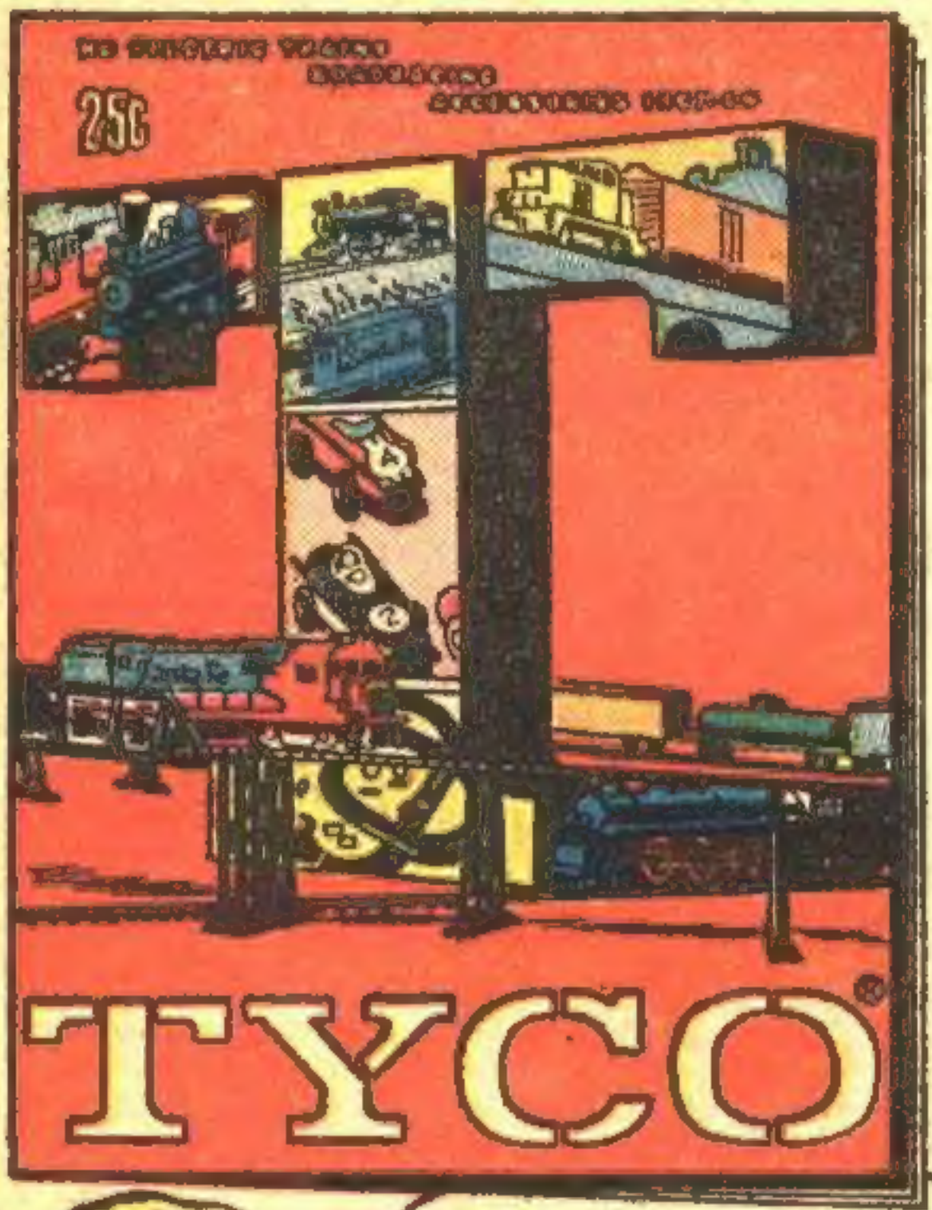


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# DIRECT CURRENTS

So you want to know what's in the works for the upcoming issues in the DC line? And if you don't, what are you reading this column for? Not that it isn't a beautiful piece of deathless prose! Oh, well. . .here are the previews. .

CLAW! MAGNETO! TORPEDO! What are we talking about—a factory? Not on your life! They're the three latest foes to face **AQUAMAN!** And what a combo they make, as they invade the ATLANTEAN PAVILION at EXPO 21st! Their goal? We can't reveal it here. . .but you'll find out in the **December issue, No. 36,** which goes on sale Sept. 7!

**WONDER WOMAN** turning fink? It seems that way, as the MIGHTY AMAZON is forced to trick all her sister AMAZONS on PARADISE ISLAND! But what is the reason for her strange actions? You'll find the startling answer revealed in —"WONDER WOMAN'S DARING DECEPTION!" It's in the **December issue, No. 173,** on the newsstands Sept. 7!

What? Our rugged RANGERS running from a fight? Those rough-and-ready RANGERS who faced guns point-blank? But they have a reason —a brute named MARNEY! Was he a madman or a crafty killer? They thought they had the answer to his dark secret—but were they surprised! In the **December TOMAHAWK, No. 113,** on sale Sept. 7.

A mysterious killer tries to murder BRUCE WAYNE. . .then an attempt is made on the life of CLARK KENT! Is someone out to assassinate the known friends of BATMAN and SUPERMAN? The **WORLD'S FINEST** team is up against the most baffling mystery of their crime-fighting careers. . .in the **November issue, No. 171,** on sale Sept. 12!

The motto of the UNITED NATIONS is "WE BELIEVE!" In a story that is bound to become a classic, young SNAPPER CARR, honorary member of the **JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA,** is vividly shown by the world's greatest heroes how brotherhood can—and must—be achieved! "MAN, THY NAME IS BROTHER!" **November issue, No. 57,** on sale Sept. 12.

Fresh from his smash debut, **BOMBA THE JUNGLE BOY** returns in another thriller. This one takes you deep into INCA territory, where DC's latest hero—and comicdom's greatest jungle adventurer—tracks down "THE PHANTOM CITY OF DEATH!" If you missed him before, don't do so again! **December issue, No. 2,** on the stands Sept. 12.

Wanna hear the best news of your life? "SOMEBODY SWIPED OUR SCHOOL!" And that's the title of the **December JERRY LEWIS, No. 103!** You'll rub your eyes with disbelief, gag from giggling, and roar with raucous delight when school days turn into a school daze! Plus No. 4 in JERRY'S GALLERY OF ART MESSTERPIECES! On sale Sept. 14.

Mountain-climbers scale mountains because they're there—but HUNTER'S HELLCATS have another reason—a daring secret mission! And the mountains aren't ALL that's there—for our heroes must battle enemy ski troopers and massive avalanches in —"MOUNTAINS FULL OF DEATH!" **December OUR FIGHTING FORCES, No. 110,** on sale Sept. 19.

Meet D.J. DEEJAY, the zaniest, kookiest, hippiest disc jockey ever to hit the airwaves! But D.J. is maybe not all he SEEMS to be, as the **TEEN TITANS** learn in their **December epic, No. 12,** which goes on sale everywhere Sept. 19! Starring—as always—ROBIN, WONDER GIRL, KID FLASH and AQUALAD!

It happens at last! **THE INFERIOR FIVE** make their first trip through time, in the whackiest time machine yet! They wind up in PARIS during the FRENCH REVOLUTION, and the REIGN OF TERROR turns into a HAILSTORM OF LAUGHS! See the **I-5** fight for truth, justice and survival in the **December issue, No. 5,** on sale Sept. 19!

Our human rubberband performs new and incredible feats in "PLASTIC MAN'S OLD MAN," in the **December issue** of **PLASTIC MAN, No. 7!** For those who are familiar with PLAS from the old days, the return of WOOZY WINKS should be an epic event! And if you've never seen him, it's an introduction you won't forget! On sale Sept. 21.

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT--SO YOU GET IT FIRST!

JOEY--TAKE IT EASY!!

YOU CAN ALWAYS SEE A LAWYER AND--OOOPPFF!

WE'RE ALL EX-CONS--WE WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE!

NOT WITH OUR RECORDS!

BATMAN IS OFF-LIMITS!

NICE WORK, ROBIN!

NOW I CAN PUT THE SHOULDER-WHEEL JUDO HOLD INTO PRACTICE!

I'M NO FIGHTER! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE!

MY OH MY! THIS 'PLACE OF REFUGE DIDN'T QUITE TURN OUT THAT WAY...

YOU CAN COME ON OUT, SIR! THE JEWEL THIEVES HAVE BEEN TAKEN!

G-GOODNESS ME! I--I NEVER EXPERIENCED ANYTHING LIKE THAT!

WE'LL TURN THE STOLEN JEWELS AND THESE MEN OVER TO THE POLICE!

NEXT EVENING, THE *MASKED MANHUNTER* AND *TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT* AGAIN SET OUT ON THEIR NIGHTLY PATROL--BUT THINGS ARE QUIET UNTIL...

*ROBIN*--THAT MILK TRUCK! I KNOW THE WARRENS--A LARGE FAMILY WITH SEVEN YOUNGSTERS WHO LIVE IN THAT BIG MANSION--ARE IN *MONTREAL FOR EXPO 67*!

SO WHY WOULD THE MILKMAN BE DELIVERING MILK?

ANSWER--HE ISN'T! IT'S A CLOAK FOR SOME CROOKS!

AS THE *BAT-MOBILE* CUTS OFF THE MILK TRUCK...

HOLD IT, MILKMAN! WE WANT TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS!

MILK

--AND YOU BETTER HAVE THE RIGHT ANSWERS!

AS THEY RUN TOWARD THE MILK TRUCK, ITS REAR DOORS SLAM OPEN AND...

WE WERE RIGHT! THEY *ARE* CROOKS--DRESSED AS *MODS*--

--AND MASKED AGAINST INSTANT RECOGNITION!

THOSE MASKS MAY HIDE YOUR FACES--BUT NOT YOUR INTENTIONS!

THEIR MOD OUTFITS WILL BE OUT OF STYLE BY THE TIME THEY GET OUT OF PRISON!

MILK

THE AIR IS FILLED WITH FLYING FISTS THAT LAND WITH SHATTERING IMPACT...

SUDDENLY THE GROGGY *MODS* WHIRL--LATCH ON TO THE MOVING MILK TRUCK AND...

HEY! THEY'RE CUTTING OUT ON US!

AFTER THEM--IN THE *BATMOBILE*!

MILK

BUT AS THEY TURN TOWARD THEIR CAR...

WE CAN'T FOLLOW THEM! THE *BATMOBILE* TIRES--SLASHED BY THE DRIVER WHILE THOSE MOD MUSCLEMEN KEPT US BUSY!

I'LL PHONE GORDON ON THE *HOT-LINE*--EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED--AND ASK FOR A POLICE EMERGENCY TRUCK TO BRING US A NEW SET OF TIRES!

WHILE THE SLASHED TIRES ARE BEING RE-PLACED...

THE CROOKS GOT AWAY, COMMISSIONER! BUT THEY LEFT US A CLUE!

A *BUTTON* TORN OFF A MOD JACKET! THAT'S ALL WE NEED TO GO ON...

WE CHECKED WHILE WE WERE WAITING FOR THE POLICE EMERGENCY TRUCK--A NUMBER OF PAINTINGS ARE MISSING FROM THE WARREN HOUSE!

ALL THE LEG WORK REQUIRED ON CHECKING UP ON THAT BUTTON WOULD TAKE TOO LONG! *PETRU* HERE CAN DO THE JOB A LOT FASTER!

IT'S EARLY ENOUGH IN THE CASE--THE PSYCHIC EMANATIONS FROM THE BUTTON ARE QUITE STRONG!

*BATMAN*, FOLLOW COMMISSIONER GORDON AND ME--AND I'LL LEAD YOU TO THOSE CROOKS!

NOT LONG AFTERWARD, INSIDE AN OPEN-ALL-NIGHT POOL ROOM ...

THERE THEY ARE!

HE DID IT AGAIN! THEY SURE LOOK LIKE THE ONES WE TANGLED WITH! TWO OF THEM ARE BANGED UP FROM THE FIGHT--

TEEN BEAT IS NOW!

QUITE MEEKLY, THE *MODS* GIVE UP WITHOUT A BATTLE ...

HOLD IT, B AND R!

MAKE PEACE -- NOT WAR! YOU WANT US, YOU GOT US!

BUT WE'RE *ALIBI IKES*! WE'VE BEEN HERE ALL NIGHT!

WHAT ABOUT THOSE BRUISES ON YOUR FACES?

WE HAD AN ARGUMENT OVER WHICH POOL ROOM TO GO TO--SO WE TOOK OFF OUR JACKETS AND FOUGHT IT OUT TO DECIDE WHICH ONE IT'D BE!

IF YOU'RE INNOCENT, YOU WON'T MIND IF WE SEARCH YOUR CAR-- TRUNK FOR SOME STOLEN PAINTINGS! YOUR PSYCHIC AURAS TELL ME THAT'S WHERE YOU HID THEM!

SURE ENOUGH...

*DUBROV*--YOU'RE A WALKING WONDER! THEY'RE HERE ALL RIGHT!

IT'S A FIX!

WE'RE AS INNOCENT AS *MARY POPPINS*!

I FEEL LIKE WE'RE BUTTIN' IN, *BATMAN*! *DUBROV*'S DOING ALL OUR WORK FOR US!

*BUTTIN'* IS THE KEY WORD ALL RIGHT, *ROBIN*!

*BUTTIN'*?! WAIT--I JUST REALIZED--

THOSE WEREN'T THE CROOKS WHO STOLE THE PAINTINGS!

NONE OF THOSE *MODS* HAS A BUTTON TORN OFF HIS JACKET! THAT MEANS--*PETRU DUBROV* IS A *FOUR-FLUSHER*!

NOT THE *REAL PETRU DUBROV*! JUST *THIS* ONE WHO'S MASQUERADING AS HIM!

THIS CALLS FOR A PRIVATE TALK WITH THE POLICE COMMISSIONER!

SHORTLY, IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S PRIVATE OFFICE...

--AND I RECEIVED THIS OVERSEAS LETTER FROM *PETRU DUBROV* ADVISING ME HE'D CALL UPON ME WHILE VISITING A FORMER COUNTRYMAN OF HIS WHO LIVES JUST OUTSIDE *GOTHAM CITY!*

WITH A BIT OF LUCK-- THIS LETTER WILL TELL US WHO HIS FRIEND IS-- AND WHERE HE LIVES--

B-BUT THE LETTER DOESN'T GIVE US THAT INFORMATION!

ASSUMING *DUBROV* WROTE TO HIS FRIEND *FIRST*-- ON A PAD OF STATIONERY-- AND *THEN* WROTE TO THE COMMISSIONER-- THE IMPRINT OF THAT FIRST LETTER WILL SHOW UP ON THIS ONE, AS I SCATTER POWDERED GRAPHITE OVER IT!

IT'S COMING THROUGH *BATMAN!*

BOY! IT'S ABOUT TIME WE SHOWED WHAT *WE* CAN DO!

THE MORNING IS WELL ADVANCED WHEN THE *DYNAMIC DUO* ARRIVES AT A FARM SOME MILES BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS...

WE'LL SPLIT UP HERE, *ROBIN!* YOU TAKE THE HOUSE--I'LL TAKE THE BARN!

IN THE BARN, SECONDS AFTERWARD...

SOMEBODY UP ABOVE--HIDING FROM *ME!* I'LL NAB HIM-- QUESTION HIM ABOUT WHERE I CAN FIND THE *REAL PETRU DUBROV!*

AS HE CLIMBS A LADDER--A BOOTED FOOT KICKS OUT OF THE SHADOWS...

HE'S PLANNING TO GET IN THE FIRST BLOW...!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

# Never too late... to get on the BOMBA TRAIL!

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THE REFLEX ACTIONS OF *BATMAN* ARE THOSE OF A CAT! HIS HANDS REACH UPWARD--HIS LEGS OUTWARD...

HIS PLANS-- AND MINE--CLASHED! *MINE* WON!--

ONE THING'S SURE--HE'S NOT GOING TO VOLUNTARILY GIVE ME THE INFORMATION I'M AFTER--

SO I'LL HAVE TO DO MY OWN FACT-FINDING-- AFTER HE'S DISPOSED OF!

DRIVEN BACKWARD BY THAT AWESOME BLOW, THE MUSCLE MAN GRIPS A ROPE--YANKS HARD AND FREES A BIG PULLEY...

THUNK!

GNGGG

NEXT INSTANT THE INERT CRIME-FIGHTER IS LIFTED HIGH IN MIGHTY HANDS...

*BATMAN!* WHERE ARE YOU?

HOW CONVENIENT! HERE'S WHERE I GET RID OF *BATMAN AND ROBIN!*

YOU ALL RIGHT? ANSWER ME!

SUDDENLY, FROM OUT OF NOWHERE...

HEADS UP, ROBIN!

BATMAN-- FALLING DOWN ON ME!

WITHIN A SPLIT-SECOND, THE *TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT* REARS AWAY AND SIMULTANEOUSLY SHOOTS OUT HIS HANDS...

IF HE HITS THE FLOOR WITH THAT FORCE--

GOT TO SHOVE HIM ASIDE... CUSHION HIS FALL ON THAT *BALE OF HAY!*

EVEN AS THE *CAPED CRUSADER* CRASHES ONTO THE SOFT HAY, *ROBIN* WHIRLS AND FIRES A *BATARANG* UPWARD...

YOU BIG LUG! IF *BATMAN'S* HURT--I'LL TAKE YOU APART!

THAT *BATARANG* WILL KEEP HIM OUT OF THE ACTION-- WHILE I SEE IF *BATMAN'S* ALL RIGHT!

FOR SEVERAL FRANTIC MOMENTS, *ROBIN* LABORS OVER THE *MASKED MANHUNTER!* THEN...

*whew!* SEEING YOU GET UP IS A BIG RELIEF!

THANKS FOR WARNING ME--OR THERE'D BE TWO OF US STRETCHED OUT ON THE FLOOR!

BUT I--I DIDN'T WARN YOU, *ROBIN!*

AND IF I DIDN'T--*WHO DID?!*

IS IT POSSIBLE YOU HEARD A *TELEPATHIC VOICE*?

BUT HOW COULD ANYONE USE *TELEPATHY* TO--

IF THE *REAL PETRU DUBROV* IS INSIDE THE BARN--HE COULD HAVE WARNED YOU WITH HIS *EXTRA-SENSORY POWERS!*

HE MUST BE BOUND AND GAGGED--OTHERWISE HE'D HAVE *SHOUTED* A WARNING! LET'S CHECK THE CONTENTS OF THAT CRATE!

*MOMENTS LATER...*

YES, *ROBIN*--I TELE-PATHED THE WARNING INTO YOUR MIND!

WHEN I CAME TO VISIT MY FRIEND AT HIS FARM HERE--HE TURNED ON ME--LEFT ME BOUND AND GAGGED IN THIS CRATE! HE BOASTED HE WAS GOING TO PASS HIM-SELF OFF AS ME TO THE POLICE...

BY CHECKING AROUND, HE FOUND SOME EX-CONVICTS WHOM HE COULD BLAME FOR CER-TAIN ROBBERIES HIS GANG WOULD COMMIT--MAKING IT SEEM THAT *PETRU DUBROV* EXPOSED THEM WITH *PSYCHIC POWERS!*

THE THREE MEN WHO COMMITTED THE ROBBERIES PLANTED THE LOOT ON THE INNOCENT VICTIMS AS PART OF AN OVERALL SCHEME..

HIS PLAN WAS TO INSTILL A BELIEF IN "MY" POWERS--SO THAT WHEN THE *BIG* ROBBERY TOOK PLACE--THE HOLDUP OF AN ARMORED CAR CARRYING A MILLION DOLLARS--HE WOULD LEAD YOU ON A WILD-GOOSE CHASE...

...GIVING HIS GANG TIME TO GET AWAY SCOT-FREE WITH THE STOLEN MILLION!

IF ONLY WE KNEW WHERE THE HOLDUP WAS TO TAKE PLACE!

IT'S TOO LATE NOW TO PREVENT THE HOLD-UP--BUT I *CAN* TELL YOU WHAT THEIR GETAWAY ROUTE IS!

BY *ESP*, eh? LET'S GET GOING!

AND SO--AT A TOLL BOOTH ON THE *GOTHAM TURN-PIKE*...

THERE THEY ARE, *ROBIN*! AFTER THEM ...

WE'VE NEVER SEEN THEM UNMASKED! HOW COULD *BATMAN* KNOW?

TO THE *DYNAMIC DUO'S* SURPRISE...

WE SURRENDER! WE COULDN'T TAKE ANOTHER FIGHT AGAINST YOU TWO!

SO *THAT'S* HOW YOU RECOGNIZED THEM.. FROM THE BRUISE MARKS WE INFLICTED ON THEIR FACES IN OUR FIRST FIGHT!

LATER, AT THE SCENE OF THE ARMORED CAR ROBBERY--AFTER THE THREE CROOKS, THE MUSCLEMAN AND THE STOLEN MILLION HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE...

COMMISSIONER GORDON, I'M STILL TRYING TO PICK UP A PSYCHIC EMANATION OF THE ARMORED CAR CROOKS...

COME OFF IT, YOU PHONY PSYCHIC! WE'VE ALREADY SOLVED THAT CASE AND ARE WISE TO YOUR MASQUERADE!

YOU KNOW, MR. DUBROV, AT FIRST I WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THOSE *ESP* POWERS--THEN I WAS HALF-INCLINED TO BELIEVE THEM--UNTIL NOW *I'M CONVINCED* YOU HAVE THEM!

HOW ELSE COULD YOU TELEPATH THAT WARNING TO ME IN THE BARN--AND KNOW ABOUT THAT GETAWAY ROUTE?

TO BE HONEST, *ROBIN*--I SCORED ONLY 50% WITH MY EXTRA-SENSORY POWERS...

WHILE I ACTUALLY SUCCEEDED IN TELEPATHING THAT WARNING TO YOU--*ESP* HAD *NOTHING* TO DO WITH KNOWING THE CROOKS' GETAWAY ROUTE! I--ER--*OVERHEARD* THEM PLOTTING WHICH ROAD THEY'D TAKE!

*BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*, I WANT YOU TO KNOW I WOULD NEVER SET MYSELF UP AGAINST YOU AS DETECTIVES! MY RECORD CAN'T COMPARE TO YOURS!

*YOUR* RECORD IS *100%*--INCLUDING SAVING ME AND CATCHING MY IMPOSTOR!

THE END

# LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

*Dear Editor:*

A few comments on the June *Batman* if I may. To start off with, your cover was excellent, as have been the previous three of the new year. Out of all my *Batman* mags, I don't think you've ever used that shade of green on your *Batman logo* and it really improved the cover.

The thing I liked most about "The Crystal Ball that Betrayed Batman" was the return of Johnny Witts. I think he is easily capable of being used again and again because he really does seem to think ahead of *Batman* at every turn. The thing that always perplexes me is when a crook captures *Batman,* he then fails to take off his cowl or his disguise. I guess they're all too devilbent on destroying him to think about that though.

The second story—"Dick Grayson's Secret Guardian"—was absolutely the best *Robin* story to date. We really got to see into Dick Grayson's school life for once and it turned into a dandy of a story. I'm glad you didn't have Dick Grayson play the "sissy" in his social life and it was really neat the way he showed *Toughy* up without even hitting him! I'm going to credit both stories to Gardner Fox because he wrote the other story featuring Johnny Witts back in '65 and because he also wrote other *Robin* "solo" stories.

Finally, it seems you have gotten away from most of the campy stuff in *Batman,* and you can sure tell it from the way *Batman* and *Detective* have improved since the start of this year. All I can say is, thanks!

—*Dave Truesdale, Morton, Ill.*

(Having *Batman* in the palm of his hands is, as you surmise, more than enough for an excited villain to handle—hence the repeated failure to unmask the *Caped Crusader.* However, there have been several cases where villains have managed to keep their cool and sought to uncover the bare facts behind the prize prisoner's mask—only to draw a blank! Your *Foxy* guesses as to both stories' authorship are correct.—*Editor*)

• • • • •

*Dear Editor:*

In this, my senior year in high school, I'm taking a lot of interesting classes, and one of the most interesting is *Humanities,* in which I study music and art and painters and such. One of the things I've picked up from this course is an eye for composition, and I've been putting my education to the test of late by looking for this factor in one of my pet art forms, the covers of comics magazines. Praise be, I have found an example of almost perfect composition with the Infantino-Anderson cover of *Batman* 192.

The stage is set for a scholarly discussion of just why this particular cover is so well-composed, but I am a mere student and can't whip off all the terms a true patron of the arts could if he were writing this missive. However, I can guess that it was triangular composition that the old master, Carmine Infantino, used when he created the eerie scene. The eye of the viewer of any painting-or-cover is immediately and naturally drawn to the point just above the center of the work . . . in this case, we find ourselves confronted with the baleful countenance of the *Swami,* as demonish a character as any comic artist's ever placed on paper. The brightly lit stalwartness of *Batman* just beneath him nicely balanced the pull of the Swami's face and almost succeeded in becoming the center of our attention. Despite the shafts of light streaming from the *Masked Manhunter* (gahh!) . . . tending to give him a saintly effect, in contrast to the *Swami*'s satanic scowl, a purposeful move, I'll bet . . . my attention was always drawn back to that vicious face under the turban . . . truly this is one of the Infantino-Anderson team's better efforts.

Now that I've used up two lengthy paragraphs talking about the cover, I'll move on to the story, "The Crystal Ball that Betrayed Batman." This was no masterpiece, but I imagine it will get the usual amount of praise. Pardon me if I don't join in on the hip-hoorays . . . nowadays it takes more than a "usual" story to get the "usual" amounts of praise from me.

"Dick Grayson's Secret Guardian" was interesting solely because the hoods in the tale were realistic and believable. Too bad the hero wasn't . . . the *man-amplifier* is such a valuable piece of equipment, and as far as I know still experimental, that no father in his right mind would let his son borrow it (unless he didn't know about it, which would have been something new, at least). But the top goon's one-panel reform described by *Robin* on the last page was absolutely cringeworthy . . . especially since the author had so successfully built up his image as a first-rate shnook. But to close on a lighter, more complimentary note, I like the *solo-Robin* series and I pray it comes back soon. But not with the Madison Avenue ghost of teenagedom in mind . . . we aren't all the banal blobs of giggle the men with the money make us out to be. And I'm certain you know that . . . and here's a hope you'll put that knowledge into effect soon!

—*Guy Lillian, Walnut Creek, Calif.*

(Leave it to our favorite "Guy" to explain to his fellow readers—and us—just what it was about the *Swami* cover that held us spellbound!—*Editor*)

• • • • •

*Dear Editor:*

Let me be among the few thousand to compliment you on *Batman* 192.

The first story, "The Crystal Ball that Betrayed Batman," was just a little above average. The best point was the return of Johnny Witts. I like Witts mainly because he has become a master criminal and quite a formidable foe of the *Masked Manhunters* without putting on a stupid awkward costume. (No offense, but sometimes even *Batman* looks more funny than "fear-striking.") But then what should happen in this story? Witts makes his grand entrance in a cape and turban as the *Swami! Ecch!* But at least he managed to stay "one step ahead" in the old Witts fashion. By the way, thanks for those extra touches, like having *Batman* miss with the first boot (no man is perfect) and the new twist ending.

I was sorry to see that Witts did not get a full-lengther until I saw that this issue had a *Robin* solo. It was good to see Dick Grayson in there fighting, especially since the fighters were all teens.

Just out of curiosity, have you planned anything spectacular for the upcoming issue 200?

—*Billy Neville, Raleigh, North Carolina*

(You can bet your bottom 12 cents we have! But you'll have to stick around long enough to find out just what! —*Editor*)

• • • • •

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

A BLAZE OF BRILLIANCE IN THE NIGHT-TIME DARKNESS HERALDS THE OCCURRENCE OF A STARTLING CRIME! FRAMED IN ITS RADIANCE, FATE HAS SPOT-LIGHTED THE CAPED CRUSADER AS IF DESTINY ITSELF WERE HIGHLIGHTING HIS SWITCH FROM A CASE OF BANK ROBBERY TO...

# BATMAN

## THE PURLOINED PARCHMENT PUZZLE

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT SUDDEN FLASH OF LIGHT-- I'D NEVER HAVE SEEN THAT THUG LEAPING AT ME FROM THE SHADOWS!

AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY DANTON QUESTIONS A WITNESS AT A PRE-TRIAL HEARING IN A GOTHAM CITY COURT-HOUSE...

JAMES FROST, STATE YOUR OCCUPATION!

I AM A GUARD AT THE CLIFFORD MARLOWE PRIVATE MUSEUM.

"ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 21ST LAST, I WAS STATIONED WITH HOWARD PURLEY, ANOTHER GUARD, BEFORE THE LOCKED DOORS OF THE MUSEUM'S ANTIQUITIES ROOM..."

SURE THE DOOR'S LOCKED, HOWIE?

I AM--AND ONLY DONALD CONNERY AND I HAVE A KEY TO IT! SO RELAX!

"INSIDE THE ANTIQUITIES ROOM, CONNERY--A NOTED HISTORIAN AND AUTHORITY ON PAST CIVILIZATIONS--WAS CAREFULLY EXAMINING A RARE PARCHMENT FIND..."

AMAZING! THIS ANCIENT ROMAN PARCHMENT IS THE FIND OF THE CENTURY!

BUT EVEN MORE AMAZING IS ITS REMARKABLE STATE OF PRESERVATION! IT COULD HAVE BEEN MADE YESTERDAY FOR ALL THE WEAR IT SHOWS! I MUST FIND OUT WHAT CHEMICAL IT WAS TREATED WITH, TO MAKE IT LAST IN SUCH EXCELLENT CONDITION ALL THESE YEARS!

"AT TEN MINUTES TO TWELVE, HAL WENT DOWN THE HALL FOR A CUP OF WATER..."

BE RIGHT BACK, JIM!

BRING ME BACK A CUP, HOWIE!

"IT WAS THEN THAT I HEARD A LOUD THUMP--LIKE THAT OF A FALLING BODY--INSIDE THE ANTIQUITIES ROOM AND..."

CONNERY? YOU ALL RIGHT? ANSWER ME!

HOWIE! GET BACK HERE! HURRY UP! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

# BAN GLOOM!

GET TURNED ON TO A REAL OUTASITE HAPPENING--

Teen Beat

The ONLY 12¢ NOW-MAG w/ FULL COLOR.. with INSIDE FAX ON ALL YOUR FAVES!

Make the Scene.. SEPT. 5th

"WHEN PURLEY OPENED THE DOOR AND WE BURST IN..."

HE'S HURT--MAYBE DEAD! WHERE'S THE RARE PARCHMENT HE WAS WORKING ON?

IT'S GONE! I'D BETTER CALL THE POLICE!

AFTER HOWARD PURLEY HAS CONFIRMED THE TESTIMONY OF JAMES FROST, POLICE LIEUTENANT BERT SAVELLI IS SWORN IN..

DID YOU VISIT THE MARLOWE MUSEUM ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 21st LAST?

I DID--AT MIDNIGHT! AS SOON AS OUR PATROL CAR PICKED UP THE NEWS OF THE ROBBERY FROM HEADQUARTERS ON OUR RADIO!

"JUST AS I WAS GETTING OUT OF THE CAR, BATMAN ARRIVED WITH FOUR PRISONERS.."

GOOD GOSH! DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE CAUGHT THE MUSEUM ROBBERS SO SOON, BATMAN!

THESE ARE BANK ROBBERS, LIEUTENANT! I THOUGHT YOU WERE HERE TO TAKE THEM OFF MY HANDS SO I COULD CONTINUE WITH MY NIGHTLY PATROL!

"I SURE WAS GLAD TO SEE THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE! AFTER SUMMONING ANOTHER SQUAD CAR TO TAKE IN THE BANK ROBBERS.."

DID EITHER OF YOU MEN TOUCH ANYTHING HERE?

NO, SIR--EXCEPT THE TELEPHONE TO CALL THE POLICE!

THE WINDOW IS BURGLAR-PROOF! BESIDES, IF ANYONE HAD ENTERED AND LEFT BY THAT WINDOW, HE COULDN'T HAVE PULLED DOWN THE SHADE BEHIND HIM! THE DOOR WAS LOCKED--AND THERE ARE NO MARKS OF VIOLENCE ON CONNERY...

ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I AM--THAT CONNERY RIGGED ALL THIS TO STEAL THE PARCHMENT FOR HIMSELF? BY HIDING IT FIRST... THEN KNOCKING HIMSELF OUT, AS AN ALIBI?

DID YOU TEST THE COFFEE IN THE CARAFE, LIEUTENANT?

YES, SIR--WITH BATMAN--USING SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FROM HIS BAT-MOBILE--AND FOUND THAT THE COFFEE CONTAINED KNOCK-OUT DROPS!

DID YOU MAKE A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE *ANTIQUITIES ROOM* FOR THE MISSING PARCHMENT?

I DID--BUT DIDN'T FIND IT! BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO PRESUMABLY COULD HAVE DISPOSED OF THE PARCHMENT, CONNERY WAS CHARGED WITH THE THEFT...

NOW IT IS THE TURN OF THE *CAPED CRUSADER* TO TAKE THE STAND...

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS CASE, *BATMAN*?

AT ELEVEN-THIRTY THAT NIGHT I WAS ON PATROL ALONG *BANKER'S ROW* WHEN...

"*I SPOTTED THREE MEN DASH OUT OF THE GOTHAM MERCANTILE BANK AND HOP INTO A MOVING CAR...*"

NO TIME TO INTERCEPT THEM! I'LL HAVE TO GIVE CHASE...

"*THE PURSUIT WAS LONG AND TRICKY--BUT I FINALLY FORCED THEM INTO A ROAD BEHIND THE CLIFFORD MARLOWE MUSEUM...*"

JOURNEY'S END, BOYS! WILL YOU GO QUIETLY--OR BLACK AND BLUE?

"*SO YOU SEE, I WAS OUTSIDE THE ANTIQUITIES ROOM FIGHTING BANK ROBBERS...*"

OOOOF! BATMAN HAS TO GIVE OUT WITH COLORFUL CRACKS YET!

OKAY! SOME BLACK AND BLUE MARKS COMING RIGHT UP!

I'LL GET YOU WHEN YOU'RE OFF BALANCE!

THE SECRET OF FIGHTING MORE THAN ONE MAN AT ONCE -- IS NEVER TO BE CAUGHT OFF BALANCE!

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

"I CONTINUED MY ROLL-OVER AND LANDED ON MY FEET -- JUST AS A FLASH OF LIGHT SHOT OUT FROM A MUSEUM WINDOW..."

THE LAST CROOK -- LEAPING AT ME OUT OF THE SHADOWS--!

"I CAST A QUICK GLANCE UPWARD INTO THE ANTIQUITIES ROOM EVEN AS I TENSED TO HANDLE THE FINAL BANK ROBBER..."

"I DUCKED -- WHIRLED -- AND GRABBED MY ATTACKER, APPLYING A VARIATION OF THE SEOI OTOSHI JUDO THROW -- THE KNEELING SHOULDER TOSS..."

YEEU!!

AS THE LAST BANDIT WENT DOWN, I HEARD AN APPROACHING POLICE CAR SIREN, AND WENT, TO MEET LT. SAVELLI! IT WAS IN THIS MANNER THAT I WAS DRAWN FROM ONE CASE TO ANOTHER...

BATMAN, YOU MENTIONED A "FLASH OF LIGHT." DO YOU KNOW WHAT CAUSED IT?

SOMEONE INSIDE THE ROOM HAD DRAWN THE WINDOWSHADE BACK AT THAT TIME--CAUSING THE BRIGHT LIGHT DONALD CONNERY WAS USING IN HIS STUDY OF THE RARE PARCHMENT TO SHINE OUT INTO THE ROADWAY!

HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHO MOVED THE WINDOW SHADE AND WHY?

I DIDN'T KNOW *THEN*--BUT WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT IT LATER ON, I REALIZED THAT IT WAS MOVED BY THE *REAL THIEF* AS HE WAS HIDING THE PARCHMENT IN THE WINDOW-SHADE ROLL!

WHEN YOU SAY "*THE REAL THIEF*"...ARE YOU INDICATING THE MAN BEING TRIED FOR THE CRIME--*DONALD CONNERY*?

NO, SIR!

IF IT WASN'T CONNERY--*WHO DID IT*?

I WONDER IF *BATMAN* KNOWS THE GUILTY PARTY?

ORDER! ORDER IN THE COURT! I DECLARE A RECESS FOR LUNCH! COURT WILL RECONVENE AT TWO O'CLOCK!

AFTER LUNCH, IN THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE COURT-ROOM...

GREAT WORK, *BATMAN*! DID YOU REALLY FIND THE PARCHMENT IN THE ROLL OF THE WINDOWSHADE? WHO--?

HOLD IT, FROST! WE'LL HEAR THE REST OF *BATMAN'S* TESTIMONY IN COURT!

WHEN THE HEARING IS RESUMED...

YOU TESTIFIED WHERE THE PARCHMENT WAS HIDDEN, BATMAN! WHAT PROOF CAN YOU OFFER?

THE MISSING PARCHMENT! BECAUSE IT IS SO SUPPLE, DUE TO THE CHEMICAL USED TO TREAT IT SO LONG AGO, IT FITTED EASILY AROUND THE ROLLER OF THE WINDOW SHADE!

AS AN EXPERT IN CRIMINOLOGY, CAN YOU TELL THIS COURT HOW THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED-- AND BY WHOM?

I BELIEVE SO...

"AS THAT LIGHT FLASHED OUT OF THE MUSEUM WINDOW, I AUTOMATICALLY GLANCED INTO IT! MY PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY ENABLED ME, LATER, TO REALIZE THAT THE HANDS OF THE WALL CLOCK DID NOT SHOW TEN MINUTES TO TWELVE--BUT TEN O'CLOCK!..."

MOMENTS LATER, WHEN I ENTERED THE ANTIQUITIES ROOM WITH LT. SAVELLI, THE CLOCK HANDS WERE PAST TWELVE O'CLOCK! IT WAS CLEAR THEN THAT SOMEONE MUST HAVE RESET THE CLOCK TO THE CORRECT TIME IN BETWEEN THE FLASH OF LIGHT I SAW AND WHEN I ENTERED THE MUSEUM! CONNERY COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT! THE TESTIMONY REVEALS HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS!

"TO ACCOUNT FOR ALL THE FACTS, I FINALLY MANAGED TO RECONSTRUCT THE CRIME AS FOLLOWS: AT TEN O'CLOCK, HISTORIAN DONALD CONNERY TOOK A DRINK OF COFFEE AS WAS HIS KNOWN CUSTOM..."

"AS THE KNOCK-OUT DROPS TOOK IMMEDIATE EFFECT, HE TUMBLED SIDEWAYS AGAINST THE WALL. HIS HAND, REACHING OUT TO SUPPORT HIMSELF, CAUGHT HOLD OF THE ELECTRIC CLOCK CORD, PULLING THE PLUG FROM ITS SOCKET..."

"ALL THE TIME FROM TEN UNTIL TEN MINUTES TO TWELVE, CONNERY LAY UNCONSCIOUS, WHICH MR. X KNEW. BUT HE HAD TO BE ALONE TO DO WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE, SO HE WAITED UNTIL HOWARD PURLEY WENT DOWN THE HALL BEFORE HE OPENED THE DOOR..."

BECAUSE I HANDLE THE MUSEUM KEYS QUITE OFTEN, IT WAS EASY FOR ME TO FASHION A DUPLICATE KEY TO THE ANTIQUITIES ROOM -- AND BIDE MY TIME UNTIL THE MUSEUM ACQUIRED SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY TO STEAL...

"IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF SECONDS FOR MR. X TO RUN INTO THE ROOM--SNATCH UP THE PARCHMENT AND..."

OHHH! CONNERY YANKED THE CORD OUT OF THE WALL CLOCK, STOPPING IT AT TEN! I'VE GOT TO FIX THAT--AFTER HIDING THIS PARCHMENT!

"UNAWARE THAT I WAS OUTSIDE THE WINDOW, MR. X DREW ASIDE THE WINDOWSHADE AND MANEUVERED THE PARCHMENT AROUND THE ROLLER..."

"AS HE MOVED THE SHADE AWAY FROM THE UPPER ROLLER WINDOW--IT CAUSED THE FLASH OF LIGHT I SAW."

"THEN HE REMOVED THE CLOCK-CORD FROM CONNERY'S HAND AND AFTER RE-SETTING THE CLOCK, PLUGGED IT IN..."

NOW TO GET OUTSIDE AND RE-LOCK THE DOOR! MY ALIBI'S ALL SET--AND SO IS CONNERY'S GUILT!

AS BATMAN CONCLUDES HIS THEORETICAL CASE...

NOW, BATMAN--ARE YOU READY TO POINT OUT THE GUILTY MAN--MR. X?

AN EXAMINATION OF THIS PARCHMENT FOR THE CRIMINAL'S FINGERPRINTS WILL REVEAL--

NO!!!

SCREAMING IN MINGLED FURY AND FRUSTRATION, GUARD JAMES FROST HURLS A TINY GAS-BOMB ON THE COURTROOM FLOOR...

SMART AS YOU ARE, BATMAN--YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME! I FIGURED WITH YOU IN ON THIS CASE, I'D HAVE TROUBLE--SO I CAME PREPARED!

THIS SLEEP-GAS WILL KNOCK OUT EVERY-BODY IN THE COURTROOM BUT ME!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

AS THE ENTIRE COURTROOM FALLS INTO A DEEP SLEEP...

I SCHEMED TOO LONG TO STEAL THAT PARCHMENT TO LET IT GET AWAY FROM ME NOW! IT'S WORTH AT LEAST A MILLION!

BUT AS THE CROOKED GUARD REACHES FOR THE PRECIOUS PARCHMENT DANGLING FROM THE "SLEEPING" BATMAN'S HAND...

IT'S SLEEPY-TIME FOR YOU NOW, FROST!

AS YOU SAID, "I FIGURED WITH YOU IN ON THIS CASE, I'D HAVE TROUBLE.. SO I CAME PREPARED"!

WHEN YOU SPOKE TO ME IN THE CORRIDOR DURING RECESS--TRYING TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH I KNEW--YOUR VOICE TONES WERE *DIFFERENT* FROM YOUR VOICE THIS MORNING WHEN YOU TESTIFIED! THEY WERE DEEPER-- MORE NASAL!

IT MEANT YOU HAD INSERTED FILTERS IN YOUR NOSTRILS-- AS I WELL KNOW FROM THE TIMES I HAD DONE THE SAME THING!

YOU'D NEED FILTERS ONLY IF YOU INTENDED TO USE SOME GAS TO MAKE AN ESCAPE AFTER BEING EXPOSED AS THE THIEF! SO I SLIPPED FILTERS OUT OF MY *UTILITY BELT* AND INSERTED THEM IN MY OWN NOSE!

LATER, WHEN JIM FROST HAS BEEN LEAD AWAY, RE-PORTERS FLOCK ABOUT THE *MASKED MAN-HUNTER*..

BUT, *BATMAN*-- IF YOU SAY THAT THE SWEAT, BODY DIRT AND GREASE OF FROST'S FINGERPRINTS COULDN'T SHOW ON THE PARCHMENT--BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL CHEMICAL POWDER CONNERY HAD BRUSHED ONTO IT-- WHY DID FROST PANIC?

I KNEW THAT-- BUT FROST DIDN'T!

Hmmm! DID YOU STOP TO THINK FROST MIGHT HAVE WORN GLOVES?

THAT WAS THE ONE THING THAT BOTHERED ME! BUT FROM FROST'S REACTION TO MY TESTIMONY, HE DIDN'T BOTHER TO! HE FIGURED WHATEVER PRINTS OF HIS WERE FOUND IN THE ROOM WOULD BE THERE BECAUSE OF HIS NORMAL DUTIES!

ALL ALONG I WAS CONFIDENT FROST WAS GUILTY BUT I COULDN'T *PROVE* IT! SO WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, THE POLICE COMMISSIONER AND COURT, WE ARRANGED THIS PRE-TRIAL... IN THE HOPE FROST WOULD GIVE HIMSELF AWAY!

HE DID--AND THEREBY CLEARED DONALD CONNERY!

STILL LATER, IN THE *BATCAVE*...

AND SO YOU SEE ONCE AGAIN, *ROBIN*--THAT NO MATTER HOW CAREFULLY A CRIMINAL PLOTS THE "*PERFECT CRIME*"--THERE IS NO SUCH THING! THE WORLD WE LIVE IN IS *TOO COMPLEX* FOR HIM TO THINK OF *EVERY* CONTINGENCY THAT MAY ARISE!

RIGHT! THAT'S THE BIG ADVANTAGE WE HAVE OVER LAW-BREAKERS! THEY *MUST* MAKE A MISTAKE--AND ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND IT!

THE END

10


# MARKED for DEATH...

Bruce Wayne
Clark Kent
Perry White
Alfred
...and other friends of
BATMAN and
SUPERMAN!
They're all on...
"The EXECUTIONER'S LIST!"

WARNING... DO NOT REVEAL THE SHOCK ENDING OF THIS STORY TO YOUR FRIENDS!

DC
WORLD'S FINEST
NO. 171
12¢
STARRING: BATMAN and SUPERMAN
I MUST DESTROY THIS LIST BEFORE BATMAN CAN DECIPHER IT IN HIS BATCAVE!
PLEASE DON'T TELL YOUR FRIENDS THE SECRET OF... "The EXECUTIONER'S LIST!"
I MUST BURN THIS LIST BEFORE SUPERMAN CAN DECODE IT IN HIS FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE!
SUPERMAN-NATIONAL COMICS
DC
ON SALE SEPT. 12th

# LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE EXTRA

*Dear Editor:*

This will be one of the most thought-provoking letters you have ever received. As it deals with an important subject that applies to all your mags, I hope you will print it so that all your fans can see what I have to say. (I'm not just trying to get a letter printed; I think the contents of my letter are *important!*)

There are two things that I want to comment on: 1. Villains' prison sentences, and 2: why your heroes never age. Right, hold tight, here we go!

First, how is time measured in your mags? Has *Batman* and *Robin* been going for about 28 years or so, or is it only about 7 as a reader suggested in a fan page? However, this raises a snag. How could all his adventures have been crowded into about 7 years? Note this fact: If Batman is only *supposed* to have been going about 7 years (one-fourth of what he's been *actually* going) that means that one magazine month is equivalent to only about a week for your characters. Now, each month *Batman* has two adventures in *Batman* and one in *Detective.* He also has one adventure in *World's Finest* and one in *Justice League of America.* That's five adventures per month of *actual time.* In the comics, a month is only a week. How's he manage five adventures a week? He must be a poor, tired *Caped Crusader*! And how can *Robin* manage it with his schooling?

Now let's say that the *Dynamic Duo* is supposed to have *really* been going for 28 years. Why haven't they aged? I have a solution, but it's a bit unrealistic. You could say that since it's only *fiction* we can suppose that people, instead of living to about 70 or 80 actually live to about 300 or so! Since people live about 4 times as long, they also only age 4 times as *slowly*! This would seem to be a solution even if not a very good one. However, this too has a snag. *Robin* has been at school for 28 years. Wait, perhaps we could say that people only learn one-fourth as fast, yet even if you say that *Batman*'s supposed to have been going for only 7 years, there are some heroes that you can't say that about: *Blackhawks,* for instance, they were going during the war, and they're still going today. Why haven't they aged any? Boy, is this getting complicated!

Now let's consider the villains' prison sentences. A villain battles a hero, is defeated and sent to prison. Then he's back again before he could have possibly served his sentence. The thing is, how long is it for robbery first time? Let's say it's about 5 years. That means to let him serve his sentence and not escape you'd have to leave him out of the action for 5 years. Now 5 years is only if you take a month of actual time as being a month for your characters (which means *Batman* has been going for 28 years). However, I suppose you could use the other alternative in which a month is a week. In that case a villain sentenced to 5 years would have to be kept out of the mag for 20 years! And that would be only if he was a first offender. Fourth offenders get life, don't they? There are an awful number of DC villains that should be locked up for keeps! The greatest offender in this respect is the *Joker.* He must have been sentenced to life a long time ago. Yet he keeps returning to battle *Batman.* Whichever time you use, the month equals month or month equals week, the villains aren't in for long enough.

Of course it would be absurd for you to keep the villains out of your mags for years and years. You've *got* to use them. So, let's see if we can come up with an excuse. We could say that they just keep escaping. However, with so many of them filling the prisons, maybe the authorities would have a bit of a job keeping them all in. You know, I think that's perhaps a good excuse. Another excuse is that the underworld keeps springing them, knowing that they'll be rewarded for doing so. Or perhaps there's some force for evil, just a spirit or something that keeps springing the men who uphold evil. No, I think we'd better just say that the villains keep escaping somehow.

All very complicated, hey? That's about it! I'll just repeat that I'm not doing this to try and get in print, but I would like to see it printed, because I think it would be of great interest to the fans. And I'd hate to think I'd struggled through all this for nothing. Anyway, I'd like to see what my fellow fans have to say as regards the points I have raised.

One final thought. About your heroes aging. You've got to do as you do, otherwise you'd just have to pack in all your heroes, or have them chasing villains in wheel chairs. That and the point about the villains' sentences are just things you're forced to overlook, and that's that.

Incidentally, despite the points I've raised, they don't prevent me from enjoying your great mags.

*Paul Broughton, Beeston, Motts, England.*

(This must surely rate as one of the most thought-provoking letters we've ever been privileged to receive! While we expect our readers to offer their own prize comments, we'd like to horn in with our own to the effect that in a comic magazine world of "unreality" time itself must of necessity be "unreal"!—*Editor*)

* * * * *

*Dear Editor:*

I would like to start out by saying I'm a fan of *Batman* comics as well as the *Batman-TV* series. Although now I don't enjoy the TV series like I always did, I make up for it by reading all the *Batman* comics I can lay my hands on. When I spotted the first letter in February *Batman* in the *Letters to the Batcave—Extra,* I had to respond and give my opposing view to Gary Collin's so-called opinion of the "New Look."

Before Batman came on TV I read all the issues of the mag, questioning myself whether or not they were worth the reading time. I slacked off from *Batman* comics until the TV series appeared. After that, I was praying that all the mags would change to the "New Look." Finally, my prayers were answered, and I enjoyed reading *Batman* more than any mag. Now I'm keeping a tab on all the new issues, and all I can say is—*Success!* Now my short reading time is made enjoyable by *Batman* comics, making up for the skipping of the TV series.

Now, as for Gary Collins—maybe the producers *are* making fun of *Batman,* but my buddies in my outfit agree that the *Caped Crusader* is more a crime-fighter than he ever was, made possible by this "New Look!"

Our helmets are off to *Batman!*

*PFC. William Alwine, Saigon, Vietnam*

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE—EXTRA, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

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